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WASHINGTON POST
27 February 1987

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CIA as Scapegoat

The members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have once again done a great disservice to this country.

In a feeble effort to make heroes of themselves and to discredit or create a distance from the Reagan administration, they have undermined the integrity, goals and mission of the CIA. The relentless hounding by both Democrats and Republicans of Robert Gates during his confirmation hearings as CIA director was appalling and uncalled for, making members of Congress appear overbearing, selfish and ignorant with regard to security and sensitive intelligence-related matters.

The effectiveness of the CIA, my employer, will diminish if it continues to be made the scapegoat of a liberal-minded press and congressional officials looking after their own interests. The leaks of so-called newsworthy items that betray sources, methods and trust of our allies have damaged our public image, security and credibility as a nation.

An efficient intelligence-gathering agency is a must for a superpower such as the United States; if Congress continues its slander of the CIA, the future of our country's role as the leading democratic world power will be placed in jeopardy. I would feel the same way if I didn't work there.

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